

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 19-20 are cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended to claim the second source as being a peripheral device that stores program information and programming content. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in the Summary of the Invention, page 8, lines 17-21, page 26, lines 18-25, and in other places.

Claim 4 is amended to fix claim language from "an attached" to "said".

Claim 8 is amended to add "said" in from of the term peripheral device and to eliminate the user data entry.

Claim 9 is amended to add "said" in from of the term peripheral device.

Claim 10 is amended to define the peripheral device as a DVD player or a server. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in the Summary of the Invention, page 8, lines 17-21, and in other places.

Claim 11 is amended to claim that the peripheral device of the claim stores program information and programming content, where the program information is used as part of a program guide. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in the Summary of the Invention, page 8, lines 17-21, page 26, lines 18-25, and in other places.

Claim 12 is amended to change step "b" to step "a".

Claim 16 is amended to define the peripheral device as a DVD player or a server. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in the Summary of the Invention, page 8, lines 17-21, and in other places.

Claim 17 is amended to claim that the peripheral device of the claim stores program information and programming content, where the program information is used as part of a program guide. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in the Summary of the Invention, page 8, lines 17-21, page 26, lines 18-25, and in other places.

New Claims 21, 23, and 25 are added to claim an operation that is performed in view of selecting programming information that corresponds to content that is stored in said peripheral device. Support for this amendment is

found in the specification on page 13, lines 28-33, page 25, lines 25-35, Fig. 7, and in other places.

New Claims 22, 24, and 26 are added to claim an additional operation that is performed after peripheral device is selected via a program guide. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 13, lines 9-33, page 25, lines 25-35, and in other places.

No new matter was added in view of these amendments.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection of Claims 1, 9-12, and 16,

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 9-12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hofmann (U.S. Patent 5,883,677). Applicant disagrees with this ground of rejection.

Claim 1 claim the elements of, "said second source is a peripheral device coupled to said video decoder; [and] said second source stores programming content and program information related to said program content available from said peripheral device." These claimed elements are neither disclosed nor suggested in Hofmann. Specifically, Hofmann discloses a system that receives programming guide information from sources such as a cable company, telephone company source, and a direct broadcast satellite. These sources are then used to formulate an integrated database (Hofmann, Abstract, FIGS. 5-6). These sources are not the same this as a peripheral device that stores "programming content and program information related to said program content available from said peripheral device".

Specifically, Hofmann is concerned about merging information from sources that from "outside sources" (see Abstract of Hofmann). In contrast, the invention of Claim 1 is concerned with a peripheral device (local not outside) that stores both program content and program information that is related to such program content. The invention of Claim 1 then uses the program information stored in the peripheral device to form a program guide with information from a first source.

New Claims 21 and 22 then claim further applications of the program information that is from the peripheral device. Neither of these claims are either disclosed or suggested by Hofmann.

Similarly, for the reasons listed above for Claim 1, the claimed, "peripheral device stores programming content and program information related to said program content available from said peripheral device," of Claim 11 is neither disclosed or suggested in Hofmann.

For the reasons given above, Applicants assert that Claims 1 and 11 are patentable. Applicants also assert that dependent Claims 9-10 and Claims 12-16 are patentable as such claims depend on allowable independent Claims 1 and 11. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to these rejected claims.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claim 4

The Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Hofmann and in view of Tamer (U.S. Patent # 6,671,881). Applicants disagree with this ground of rejection.

For the reasons given above for Claim 1, Applicants assert Claim 4 is patentable as the claim depends on allowable Claim 1. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to this claim.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claim 5, 8, 13-15.

The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 8, 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Hofmann and Goff (U.S. Patent #5,835,791). Applicants disagree with this ground of rejection.

Regarding Claim 8, there is nothing either in Hofmann, Goff, or in the Examiner's use of official notice that said change is detected in response to configuration data identifying said_peripheral device attached to said decoder and provided from received program guide information. USB or the related teachings of the connection standard does not obtain configuration data from received program guide information.

For the reasons given above and for Claims 1 and 11, Applicants assert that dependent Claims 5 and 8 with dependent Claims 13-15 are patentable as such claims depend on allowable Claims 1 and 11, respectively. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejections to these claims.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 17-18

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofmann in view of Yen (U.S. Patent # 5,991, 799). Applicants disagree with this ground of rejection.

Claim 17 claims using a "peripheral device stores programming content and program information related to said program content available from said peripheral device". This claimed feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in Hofmann or Yen, alone or in combination.

Specifically, Hofmann with Yen is concerned about merging information from sources that from "outside sources" (see Abstract of Hofmann). In contrast, the invention of Claim 17 is concerned with a peripheral device (local not outside) that stores both program content and program information that is related to such program content. The invention of Claim 17 then uses the program information stored in the peripheral device to form a program guide with information from a first source.

In the Examiner's rejection, the Examiner asserts that the peripheral device is attached to the decoder is used to access DBS or CATV sources (Office Action, page 10, sixth paragraph). The Examiner's cited peripheral device (as used by the Examiner) is used to access an outside source, versus the claimed peripheral device of Claim 17 that is not an outside source but is used to store programming content and program information related to store said program content.

Hence, when the Examiner cites that program guide information is retrieved from the peripheral device (Office Action, page 11, second paragraph) the cited peripheral device (of the Examiner) acts a communication device that receives program guide information from an external source. In contrast, the program information and programming content of Claim 17 is stored in the peripheral device, which is not the same thing as a communication device that accesses an external source, as cited to by the Examiner.

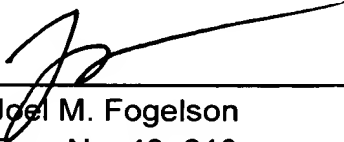
Applicants also assert that Claims 25 and 26 claim features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the combination of Hofmann with Yen, alone or in combination.

For the reasons given above, Applicants assert that Claim 17 is patentable. Claim 18 is patentable as such a claim depends on independent Claim 17. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to these claims.

Applicants request a three-month extension under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) as to file this response. Please charge Deposit Account 07-0832 for this fee and for any other fees that may be owed in connection with this response.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6809, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,


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